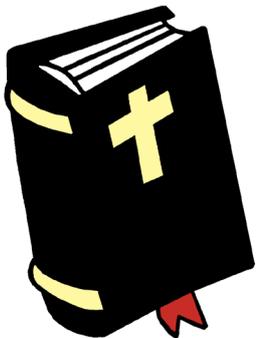




A Meal with Tax Collectors

(Luke 5:27–32 and Mark 2:14–17)



As Jesus walked along, He passed by a tax collector named Matthew (or Levi)¹ sitting at his office. Jesus said to him, “Come and follow me.” Immediately, Matthew left everything and followed Jesus.

Matthew invited Jesus and many of his friends to a feast at his house. Among the people invited were other tax collectors. Some Pharisees, who were present, murmured and complained to Jesus’ disciples, “How can you eat and drink with these sinners?”

Jesus heard them and said to the Pharisees, “People who are well do not need a doctor, only those who are sick. I have not come to call the so-called respectable people, but outcasts.”

¹ Matthew was the Greek name, and Levi was the Hebrew name. (See Matthew 9:9.)



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